



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Committee Bill No. 6148

LCO No. 4092

04092HB06148TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE OPERATOR OF A VEHICLE OTHER THAN
AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE TO REMAIN AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED
FEET BEHIND AN AMBULANCE THAT IS USING FLASHING LIGHTS
OR A SIREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

3 (a) "Emergency vehicle", as used in this section, means any
4 ambulance or vehicle operated by a member of an emergency medical
5 service organization responding to an emergency call, any vehicle used
6 by a fire department or by any officer of a fire department while on the
7 way to a fire or while responding to an emergency call but not while
8 returning from a fire or emergency call, any state or local police vehicle
9 operated by a police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor
10 Vehicles answering an emergency call or in the pursuit of fleeing law
11 violators or any Department of Correction vehicle operated by a
12 Department of Correction officer while in the course of such officer's
13 employment and while responding to an emergency call.

14 (b) The operator of any emergency vehicle may (1) park or stand
15 such vehicle, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter, (2) proceed
16 past any red light or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing
17 down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of such
18 vehicle, (3) exceed the posted speed limits or other speed limits
19 imposed by or pursuant to section 14-218a or 14-219 as long as such
20 operator does not endanger life or property by so doing, and (4)
21 disregard statutes, ordinances or regulations governing direction of
22 movement or turning in specific directions.

23 (c) The exemptions herein granted shall apply only when an
24 emergency vehicle is making use of an audible warning signal device,
25 including but not limited to a siren, whistle or bell which meets the
26 requirements of subsection (f) of section 14-80, and visible flashing or
27 revolving lights which meet the requirements of sections 14-96p and
28 14-96q, and to any state or local police vehicle properly and lawfully
29 making use of an audible warning signal device only.

30 (d) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the operator of an
31 emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the
32 safety of all persons and property.

33 (e) Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle making
34 use of such an audible warning signal device and such visible flashing
35 or revolving lights or of any state or local police vehicle properly and
36 lawfully making use of an audible warning signal device only, the
37 operator of every other vehicle in the immediate vicinity shall
38 immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to,
39 the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection
40 and shall stop and remain in such position until the emergency vehicle
41 has passed, except when otherwise directed by a state or local police
42 officer or a firefighter.

43 (f) Any person who is (1) operating a motor vehicle that is not an
44 emergency vehicle, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, and (2)
45 following an ambulance that is using flashing lights or a siren, shall

46 not follow such vehicle more closely than five hundred feet.

47 [(f)] (g) Any officer of a fire department may remove, or cause to be
 48 removed, any vehicle upon any public or private way which obstructs
 49 or retards any fire department, or any officer thereof, in controlling or
 50 extinguishing any fire.

51 [(g)] (h) Any person who wilfully or negligently obstructs or retards
 52 any ambulance or vehicle operated by a member of an emergency
 53 medical service organization while answering any emergency call or
 54 taking a patient to a hospital, or any vehicle used by a fire department
 55 or any officer or member of a fire department while on the way to a
 56 fire, or while responding to an emergency call, or any vehicle used by
 57 the state police or any local police department, or any officer of the
 58 Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety or any
 59 local police department while on the way to an emergency call or in
 60 the pursuit of fleeing law violators, shall be fined not more than two
 61 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than seven days, or both.

62 [(h)] (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting the
 63 use of a siren upon any motor vehicle other than an emergency vehicle,
 64 as defined in subsection (a) of this section, or a rescue service vehicle
 65 which is registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
 66 section 19a-181.

67 [(i)] (j) A police officer may issue a written warning or a summons
 68 to the owner of a vehicle based upon an affidavit signed by the
 69 operator of an emergency vehicle specifying (1) the license plate
 70 number, color and type of any vehicle observed violating any
 71 provision of subsection (e) or [(g)] (h) of this section, and (2) the date,
 72 approximate time and location of such violation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	14-283
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Statement of Purpose:

To help increase the safety of ambulances responding to emergency situations by prohibiting motor vehicle operators from tailgating such ambulances.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. WOOD, 141st Dist.

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